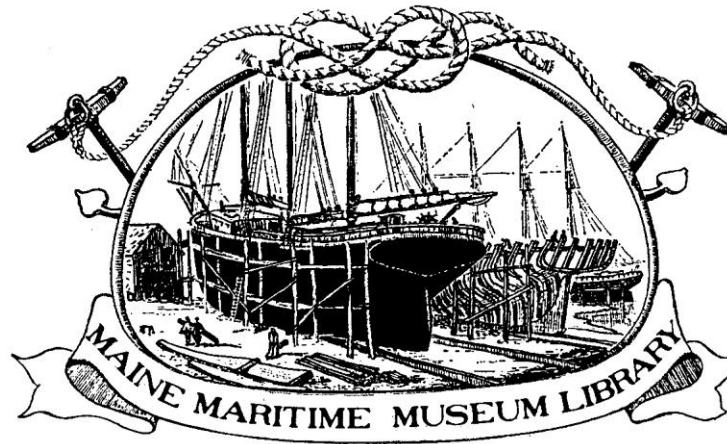


**Maine Maritime Museum Library**  
243 Washington Street  
Bath, Maine 04530-1638  
(207) 443-1316, ext. 328, 336



**Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection  
MS - 203**

**Captain Zaccheus Allen Papers**

**1881-1902**

by  
Elisabeth Meier and Nathan Lipfert  
January 2019

½ box  
0.2 linear feet  
*Accession no. 71.351.4.1-2*

## Copyright Restrictions

The material described herein is the physical property of the Maine Maritime Museum Library. **Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors of the various items, or to their legal representatives, or to Maine Maritime Museum.** For further information, consult the library staff.

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials.

Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be *“used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship or research.”* If a user later uses a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of “fair use,” that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if fulfillment of the order is judged to be in violation of copyright law.

It is the user’s responsibility to understand the copyright law concerning the use of the historical documents contained in this library.

## Copyright © 2018 by Maine Maritime Museum

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the Maine Maritime Museum Library.

## Abstract

### **Allen, Zaccheus, Captain (1843-1915)**

#### **Papers, 1881-1904**

½ box

Ship master from Richmond, Maine.

This collection contains an account book, rough log-book, and associated loose papers kept by Captain Zaccheus Allen and a journal kept by his teenage son, Thomas M.R. Allen, while at sea with his father on the *Benjamin F. Packard* (ship). It documents business and life aboard Maine built- and owned ships in the grain, coal, and case oil trades around Cape Horn.

Gift of Richard B. Noble.

MS-203. Accession #71.352.4.1-2.

Finding aid (folder level control) in repository.

#### **Added entries—persons:**

Allen, Thomas M. R. (c. 1876-1960)

Allen, Zaccheus, Captain (1843-1915)

#### **Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):**

Arthur Sewall & Co.

*Benjamin F. Packard* (ship)

*Charles Dennis* (ship)

*Harvester* (ship)

T.J. Southard & Sons

#### **Added entries—key terms:**

Accounts

Cape Horn trade

Case oil trade

Coal trade

Families at sea

Grain trade

Guano industry

Ship captains

Shipping

Sugar trade

## Acquisition

This collection was donated to the museum by Richard B. Noble in 1971.

## Restrictions

There are no restrictions on this collection.

### Physical Condition

The papers are legible and in good condition. The leather spine of the rough log has completely cracked away, but the binding beneath is still firm and flexible. There is also a page cut from the beginning of the rough log.

### Processing Notes

The loose papers in this collection were found inside the account book, but have been separated for better preservation.

### Related Materials

More manuscript material on Captain Allen's career can be found in MS-458, which contains two log-books that he kept as mate aboard the ship *America* and some loose documents from later in his career. The Sewall Family Papers, MS-22, include detailed records and correspondence from Allen's years in command of *Harvester*, *Benjamin F. Packard*, and other vessels owned by Arthur Sewall & Co. There are also documents related to the *Charles Dennis* in SM 5/2, Allen family letters in SM 3/25, and another log-book from the *Benjamin F. Packard* in SM 51/2.

In addition to manuscripts, Maine Maritime Museum has a chart chest, several track charts, a parallel rule, and a shaving mug that belonged to Zaccheus Allen and a dress belonging to his wife, Francesca. There are also several artifacts from the *Benjamin F. Packard*.

There is also a small collection of papers from Zaccheus Allen at the Richmond Historical Society.

### Historical Note

Zaccheus Allen was born September 20, 1843, at Bowdoin, Maine, the son of James M. and Adaline Allen. His death record says his father was a master mariner, and there was a James Allen in command of Maine vessels in the 1860s and 1880s, but the 1860 census for James Allen and his family records his occupation as truckman. Both parents were born in Bowdoin as well, but the family (he seems to be the only child) moved to Richmond, Maine by 1860.

In 1870 Zaccheus Allen married Francesca R. Hathorn (sometimes recorded as Frances) at Richmond, and they maintained a house there. However, he does not show up in census records in 1870, 1880, or 1900, evidently being missed because of being at sea. The Allens had two sons, Joseph (who also went to sea but does not seem to have risen beyond the rating of mate) and Thomas M. R. (who became a druggist). His family sometimes accompanied Allen aboard his vessels.

According to later court testimony (see Bunting, *Live Yankees*, 100) he became an officer about 1862. He became the chief mate of *America* in 1866, probably joining the ship at New York in March or April, and stayed as an employee of the Sewall fleet of Bath for nearly the rest of his working life. He first commanded the ship *Humboldt* in 1874, commanded *Eric the Red* in 1876 and lost her in 1880, and became master of the *Harvester* from 1881 to 1885. He left the Sewalls for a bit, to command the Richmond ME ship *Charles Dennis* from 1886 to 1888. Returning to the Sewalls in 1889, he commanded the *Benj. F. Packard* from then until his 1904 retirement, with one short break.

For much of his career, both as mate and as master, he was being accused of harsh treatment, sometimes including murder, of sailors. He never suffered a criminal conviction, but did pay some fines. *The Red Record* of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific recorded the accusations against him in vivid detail, and mainstream newspapers joined in. In command of the *Packard* he became known as Tiger Allen, hired his son Joe as mate, and the vessel acquired an unsavory reputation. For details see *Live Yankees: The Sewalls and their Ships* by W.H. Bunting, 2009.

He retired to Richmond about 1904, and there began a campaign to stop boys playing baseball in the field beside his house. The field was owned by someone else. Eventually he took the case to court and won in 1910; the *Bath Daily Times* ran the story under the heading, "Not a Patriot," evidently referring to baseball being the "national pastime." The games had been going on in the lot for 25 years at that time.

On February 8, 1915, Captain Allen died at home in Richmond, aged 72, of heart disease.

### Scope and Content Note

This collection contains an account book, rough log-book, and associated loose papers kept by Captain Zaccheus Allen. It also contains a journal kept by Allen's son, Thomas M.R. Allen, while at sea with his father.

The account book covers Allen's voyages on three vessels between 1881 and 1903: the *Harvester* (ship) and *Benjamin F. Packard* (ship), both owned by Arthur Sewall & Co. of Bath, and the *Charles Dennis* (ship), owned by T.J. Southard & Sons of Richmond. It contains records of disbursements in port, from towing and pilotage to food, laundry, and legal expenses. Ports mentioned include San Francisco, Port Townsend, Liverpool, Havre, Belfast (Ireland), New York, Hong Kong, Taku (China), Iquique (Peru), Honolulu, and smaller cities related by trade. The loose papers, a mix of summary accounts and individual receipts, also address routine business in the same ports.

The log-book contains rough calculations for latitude and longitude interspersed with brief notes on weather, landmarks, sailing, and cargo conditions for the *Benjamin F. Packard's* voyages between 1898 and 1902. This includes the record of a dangerously overheated coal cargo that forced the ship into Montevideo to unload before it caught fire. The volume also contains accounts from the *Packard's* stop in Avonmouth, England, in 1895.

Thomas M.R. Allen's journal provides a teenager's perspective of life aboard the *Benjamin F. Packard* in 1892 and 1893. Most entries are primarily concerned with sailing conditions, but others include observations on life aboard, passing vessels, and wildlife.

### Box and Folder List

Box	Folder	
1	1	Account book, <i>Harvester</i> (ship), <i>Charles Dennis</i> (ship), and <i>Benjamin F. Packard</i> (ship), 1881-1903
	2	Accounts, <i>Charles Dennis</i> (ship), 1884
	3	Accounts, <i>Benjamin F. Packard</i> (ship), 1896-1904
	4	Log-book (rough), <i>Benjamin F. Packard</i> , 1898-1902
	5	Journal kept by Thomas M.R. Allen aboard the <i>Benjamin F. Packard</i> , 1892-1893